

Please amend the following claims:

37. (Amended) The [A] process of [using composition of] Claim 157 [1 for human] wherein administration is via parenteral routes[, such as] selected from intramuscular and subcutaneous.

38. (Amended) The [A] process of [using the composition of] Claim 157 [1 for human] wherein administration is via a topical route.

39. (Amended) [A] The process of [using the composition of] Claim 157 [1 for human] wherein administration is via oral routes.

AD 40. (Amended) [A] The process of [using the composition of] Claim 157 [1 for human] wherein administration is via nasal, transdermal, rectal, [and] or vaginal routes.

41. [A] The process of [using the composition of] Claim 157 [1 for human] wherein administration is given in the form of an oral or nasal inhalant for the respiratory tract.

Claim 42, line 3, replace "Dissolving" with ---dissolving---.

Claim 45, line 2 and 3, delete "compositions characterized by burst-free, sustained" compositions";

Line 14, replace "hardened" with ---hardened---.

Claim 49, line 4, delete "essentially".

Claim 57, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 58, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 59, line 2, replace "composition" with ---formulation---;

Line 3, replace "1" with ---157---.

Claim 68, line 2, delete "essentially".

Claim 69, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 81, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 93, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 100, line 2, delete "essentially".

Claim 101, line 3, delete "essentially".

Claim 102, line 2, delete "essentially";

Line 5, replace "end-capped" with ---uncapped---

Claim 108, replace "antigens" with ---antigen---

Claim 110, line 2, delete "essentially".

Claim 111, line 2, delete "essentially".

Claim 112, line 7, replace "0/100 to 1/99" with ---100/0 to 99/1---

114. (Amended) An immunostimulating composition comprising [according to claim 10] a controlled release microcapsule pharmaceutical formulation for burst-free, sustained, programmable release of an [wherein the] immunogenic substance wherein said immunogenic substance comprises colony Factor Antigen (CFA/II), hepatitis B surface antigen (HgsAg), a mixture thereof, or physiologically similar antigen wherein said immunogenic substance is released over a duration from 1-100 days and is encapsulated within a biodegradable poly(lactide/glycolide) having the uncapped/end capped form of said poly(lactide/glycolide) in the ratio of 100/0 to 1/99, wherein the poly(lactide/glycolide) may contain a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

Claim 122, line 3, delete "essentially".

124. (Amended) A diagnostic assay for bacterial infections comprising a [composition of Claim 7] controlled release microcapsule pharmaceutical formulation for burst-free, sustained, programmable release of said biologically active agent over a duration from 1-100 days, comprising said active agent encapsulated within a biodegradable poly(lactide/glycolide) having the uncapped/end capped form of said poly(lactide/glycolide) in the ratio of 100/0 to 1/99, wherein the poly(lactide/glycolide) may contain a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

125 (Amended) A method of preparing an immunotherapeutic agent against infections caused by a bacteria comprising the steps of (1) immunizing a plasma donor with a [vaccine] immunostimulating composition according to Claim 52 such that a hyperimmune globulin is produced which contains antibodies directed against the bacteria; (2) separating the hyperimmune globulin and (3) purifying the hyperimmune globulin.

Claim 126, line 3, replace "vaccine" with immunostimulating composition;

Line 3, replace "126" with ---125---.

134. (Amended) A method for the protection against or therapeutic treatment of bacterial infection in the soft tissue or bone or a mammal comprising administering locally to said mammal a bactericidally-effective amount of [a] the composition of Claim 157 [2], wherein the active [material] agent is an antibiotic [which is controlled release with a period of about 1-100 days].

Claim 142, lines 3 and 4, replace "a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of an antibiotic in the ant," with ---said antibiotic---.